

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

DATE: April 18, 2013  
CALLED TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.  
ADJOURNED: 6:38 p.m.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **ATTENDING MEMBERS**

Vernon Brown, Chair  
Zach Adamson  
Ginny Cain  
Monroe Gray  
Pam Hickman  
Janice McHenry  
William Oliver  
Jack Sandlin

#### **ABSENT MEMBERS**

### **AGENDA**

PROPOSAL NO. 66, 2013 - reappoints John Charleston, Jr. to the Board of Public Works  
"Do Pass" Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 84, 2013 - appoints John Buckley as the physician representative to the Air  
Pollution Control Board  
"Do Pass" Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 85, 2013 - authorizes parking restrictions on Pennsylvania Street from 48th to  
49th Street (District 8)  
"Do Pass" Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 86, 2013 - authorizes parking restrictions on Milburn Street from 16th Street to  
Indiana Avenue (District 15)  
"Do Pass" Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 87, 2013 - authorizes parking restrictions on Delaware Street between  
Michigan and North Street (District 15)  
"Do Pass" Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 88, 2013 - establishes an interest in acquiring real estate owned by Deborah  
M. Bilal for the construction of the 71st Street Bikeway project  
"Postponed" until May 2, 2013 Vote: 5-1

#### **Department of Public Works**

ReBuildIndy Program Quarterly Update  
Quarterly Report on the Complete Streets Program

### **Public Works Committee**

The Public Works Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, April 18, 2013. Chairman Vernon Brown called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Zach Adamson, Ginny Cain, Monroe Gray, Pam Hickman, Janice McHenry, William Oliver and Jack Sandlin.

#### **PROPOSAL NO. 66, 2013** - reappoints John Charleston, Jr. to the Board of Public Works

Mr. Charleston stated that he served on the Board of Public Works in 2006 and 2007, then returned to serve in 2012. He stated that he feels serving on the board is a good way to give back to the city and feels that the board is very informative.

Councillor Oliver stated that he has watched some of the Board of Public Works hearings, and feels that Mr. Charleston has asked questions that he himself would ask if he was in attendance. He stated that it is a blessing to know that Mr. Charleston is willing to serve on the board again and represent the taxpayers of Indianapolis.

Councillor Sandlin thanked Mr. Charleston for his willingness to serve, and stated that his resume has a depth of experience.

Councillor Oliver moved, seconded by Councillor Adamson, to send Proposal No. 66, 2013 to the Full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

#### **PROPOSAL NO. 84, 2013** - appoints John Buckley as the physician representative to the Air Pollution Control Board

Dr. John Buckley stated that he is a Pulmonary Critical Care physician at the Indiana School of Medicine; his clinical practice is predominately at Wishard Hospital, along with some at University Health. He stated that he is originally from Michigan. He stated that air pollution is front and center in the day-to-day activities of his career and the patients that he sees. He stated that from a health standpoint it is a very important issue, not just for his patients, but also for the community. He stated that he is willing to take any opportunity he has to help.

Councillor Sandlin thanked him for his willingness to serve on the board.

Councillor Hickman moved, seconded by Councillor Oliver, to send Proposal No. 84, 2013 to the Full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

#### **PROPOSAL NO. 85, 2013** - authorizes parking restrictions on Pennsylvania Street from 48th to 49th Street (District 8)

Nathan Sheets, Department of Public Works, (DPW) stated that the request from Proposal No. 85, 2013 came from some adjacent property owners with concerns of people parking in front of or adjacent to their driveways. Mr. Sheets stated that the neighborhood group had sent an email stating that their next meeting to discuss the issue is May 8, 2013.

Councillor Gray stated that he has a neighborhood organization which is asking for a postponement of this proposal. Councillor Gray asked Mr. Sheets if this proposal is passed, if there can be a delay of the installation of the signs. Mr. Sheets answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Gray moved, seconded by Councillor Adamson, to send Proposal No. 85, 2013 to the Full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

Chair Brown asked for consent to hear Proposal Nos. 86 and 87, 2013 together. Consent was given.

PROPOSAL NO. 86, 2013 - authorizes parking restrictions on Milburn Street from 16th Street to Indiana Avenue (District 15)

Mr. Sheets stated that Milburn is currently a two-way street that allows parking on both sides of the street because of that, there are some issues with a business in the area. He stated that the roadway is too narrow to safely accommodate two-way traffic, as well as parking on both sides of the street.

PROPOSAL NO. 87, 2013 - authorizes parking restrictions on Delaware Street between Michigan and North Street (District 15)

Mr. Sheets stated that there have been meters installed at this location for a number of years; however, they have been bagged since 2001. He stated that the bags are starting to deteriorate and they have been asked to permanently remove those meters.

Councillor Adamson asked if this will impact parking on the other side of Delaware Street. Mr. Sheets stated that there has not been parking in this area since 2001.

Councillor Oliver stated that when they built the 1201 apartments, it created an overflow on the street.

Councillor Adamson moved, seconded by Councillor Oliver, to send Proposal Nos. 86 and 87, 2013 to the Full Council with "Do Pass" recommendations. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 88, 2013 - establishes an interest in acquiring real estate owned by Deborah M. Bilal for the construction of the 71st Street Bikeway project

Lori Miser, Director, Department of Public Works (DPW), introduced Director Larry Jones, DPW, Deputy Director who stated that they are extending the trail across 71<sup>st</sup> Street, and there is a parcel with a value over \$25,000, which means they have to come to the Council to get approval for the expenditure. He stated that they intend to bid the project and finish the construction this spring.

Councillor Sandlin asked how long this project has been going on. Mr. Jones stated that they have been in design on this project for about 18 months.

Councillor McHenry asked how much land this is. Mr. Jones stated that he does not have that information, but can provide it.

Chair Brown asked if these are grant monies or city taxpayers money. Mr. Jones stated that it is City funds.

Councillor McHenry asked if this is a bike lane or a greenway. Director Miser stated that it will be a multi-use trail that will be a major connectivity piece for the entire bike lane and trail system.

Councillor Adamson asked what makes this time sensitive, since it is not grant money. Mr. Jones stated that they would like to get the construction completed this year. Ms. Miser stated that the land acquisition process is critical to being able to move the project forward.

Councillor Oliver moved, seconded by Councillor Adamson, to "Postpone" Proposal No. 88, 2013 until the May, 2, 2013. The motion carried by a vote of 5-1, with Councillor Brown casting the negative vote.

**Department of Public Works**  
ReBuildIndy Program Quarterly Update  
Quarterly Report on the Complete Streets Program

Lori Miser, Director, Department of Public Works, (DPW) went over the presentation attached as Exhibit A. Following are highlights of the presentation:

- Transportation Infrastructure Needs
- Review of New Capital Expenditures - Q1
- New Planned Capital Expenditures – Q2-Q4
- Capital Outputs 2013 Q1
- Capital Outputs 2013 Q2-Q4
- 2013 Quarter 1 Total Capital Expenditures
- Complete Streets 2012 Q4 review
- Complete Streets 2013 Q1 review

Councillor Gray asked if there will be a new signal at 29<sup>th</sup> and Martin Luther King, or at 52<sup>nd</sup> and Michigan Road. Ms. Miser stated that she knows they are doing work in that area, but is not sure exactly what they are doing. Councillor Gray stated that he will get together with Ms. Miser later to discuss it.

Councillor Adamson asked if the projects completed are repair work on existing sidewalk, or existing projects that were in need of repair, or they are new additions. Director Miser stated that they could have been all of the above. As long as it includes sidewalks or crosswalks, the project could be counted in the metric. Councillor Adamson asked if they were doing any new metric that would count new projects or additional sidewalks. Director Miser answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Oliver asked what process is used to establish what roads and sidewalks will be replaced, where new ones would be put in, and in what order the work will be done. Larry Jones, DPW, stated that they receive feedback from the Mayor's Action Center, Councillors, neighborhood groups and the public, alerting them of streets that have problems. They also get requests for sidewalks. If it is for an existing infrastructure, they go out and take a look at the street and do an assessment to determine the need. The information is put into a database and prioritized based on the condition that they observed. On an annual basis, they take a look at the worst of the sidewalks and try to do a little bit across the entire city. He stated that they try to look at the high pedestrian areas around churches, schools and commercial areas, to get those areas repaired first. He stated that right now, they are collecting data for residential

streets and sidewalks for inventory, with hopes of being more transparent in their selection. He stated that missing sidewalks are the most difficult challenge they have. He stated that their first priority is the thoroughfares.

Councillor Oliver stated that new ordinances have been put in place to require developers to put in curbs and sidewalk, which is a good thing; but it left behind those residential streets that never had curbs and sidewalks, to control the flow of water and public safety. He stated that it is very important to him that they look into the residential areas that do not have curbs and sidewalks, for public safety issues, as well as water control issues. Director Miser stated that it is a very important issue to them as well, but there is a \$700 million need that they are carving away at as best as they can. Councillor Oliver stated maybe they can find the tax dollars or raise taxes.

Councillor Cain stated that sometimes neighborhoods should get together and raise the money and build sidewalks themselves and not wait on the government to do it. She stated that they all have neighborhoods that do not have sidewalks. Chair Brown asked if there were neighborhoods in her district that were building their own sidewalks. Councillor Cain stated that they have had a public/private partnership that hired a city contractor to build some sidewalks.

Councillor Hickman asked that if neighborhoods build their own sidewalks, who is required to repair them, if the city did not put them in. Mr. Jones stated that if the sidewalk is built to the City's standards, it becomes their infrastructure.

Councillor McHenry asked if there is a problem with neighborhoods repairing their own sidewalks. Director Miser stated that as long as they get a permit and repair them to the standard of the City, there is no problem.

Chair Brown asked for the name of the Councillor and the total amount spent in that district to be put on the next report. He stated that part of his issues with DPW and other city agencies is the disparity in spending in districts. The infrastructure need is city-wide. He stated that when they see the district spends are not evenly dispersed across districts, it causes questions. He stated that when they did the water company sale, he pledged to vote for the sale, if the funds were divided by districts equally; but the administration did not want to have that issue. Director Miser stated that she is happy to provide data of the amount of monies spent by district.

Chair Brown asked when they spend RebuildIndy money on the Cricket stadium; if that is part of the system-wide spend. Director Miser stated that system-wide spends are things that are not specific to just one district. For example, a traffic study or a county- wide drainage study is a system-wide spend. Chair Brown asked if the Cricket stadium will be credited to the Councillor in that district. Director Miser answered in the affirmative and stated that it is not a stadium, it is a park.

Councillor Adamson asked if they do repairs on Michigan Road, which extends through multiple Council districts, how those dollars are allocated per district, if most of the work is in one district. Mr. Jones stated that it is divided by length.

Councillor McHenry stated that in her district there have been a lot of monies spent on the dam, which shows up in her district. Chair Brown stated that monies spent on dams and streets are two different things, because all districts have street needs, and there should be equal disbursement of funds spent on streets in each district.

Director Miser stated that when the sale of the Water Company went through and they talked about how they were going to spend the RebuildIndy funds, parks was included in the infrastructure needs. She stated that they have historically spent monies on parks; spray parks, trails, parking lot repaving, access roads to parks, the Fall Creek extension, the White River trail, etc. She stated that a lot of monies go to parks because it is all a part of their infrastructure and is important to quality of life and economic development. Ms. Miser stated that the World Sports Park has been on the books and precedes her in DPW. She stated that in 2012 the Board of Public Works approved a contract for scoping and design of the World Sports Park; and they are at a point where they are ready to start construction. She stated that this is an existing park facility on south Post Road, and the goal is to expand this into a multi-sport facility. She stated that Indianapolis is becoming a multi-national community and it is important to offer the amenities to different groups. She stated that this facility will offer the ability to play Soccer, Lacrosse, Hurling, Rugby and Cricket, and can accommodate a number of different things.

Councillor Adamson stated that one of the things he remembers hearing from people at the Super Bowl, was how nice it was to have such an international traffic event in a city core. Director Miser stated that this facility has a community center that attracts a lot of different nationalities, so it seems to be a natural fit.

Chair Brown asked how often the park is currently used. Director Miser stated that the facility is one of the highest used for weddings and receptions. Chair Brown asked how much RebuildIndy money would be used for this project. Director Miser stated that this is a \$6 million project with two phases. The first phase is to get the fields in place; to get the drainage and irrigation needs done. The second phase is to add parking, access roads, concession stands and ticket booths.

Councillor Hickman asked how many jobs this will bring to the city. Director Miser stated that she knows that it will create some economic development opportunities and make the city more attractive, but she does not have a count of jobs. Councillor Hickman asked who will be required to do maintenance. Director Miser stated that the goal is to have a private entity do that; they want to hire someone to operate and maintain the facility. Councillor Hickman stated that every department in the city has to cut 5% of their budget. For parks, that would mean they either have to get rid of port-a-lets or cut down on their maintenance or pool time. She stated that she is concerned that they cannot support the parks now, so wonders how they will support this entity once it is built.

Councillor Adamson asked if the property is now city owned. Director Miser answered in the affirmative.

Councillor McHenry stated that in looking at this, she is thinking about the soccer fields in her area, and those soccer fields were developed by private individuals. She asked if they had looked into private individuals to build these fields. Director Miser stated that all those options are on the table, but the details have not been worked out.

Jeremiah Shirk, DPW, Chief of Staff, stated that those options are on the table. The idea is to hopefully have zero cost out of the Parks Department.

Chair Brown clarified that they were going to start spending money on the park soon. Director Miser stated that they will do a presentation for the Board of Public Works on Wednesday and

then will be awarding a bid for construction in a few weeks. Chair Brown stated that they will be spending RebuildIndy monies that were promised to be spent on roads, curbs and sidewalks. Director Miser stated that this included parks. Chair Brown stated that Wes Montgomery Park cannot get a pool. The Parks Department closed the pool under the new Mayor. They had a public/private partnership to build a new pool that would take some city resources, but the city would rather build a \$6 million Cricket park. Director Miser clarified that it is a multi-sports facility.

Councillor Cain stated that she has the ash bore problem in her area, where they need all kinds of trees cut down in Sahm Park, which goes back to the maintenance of what they already have. She stated that she is an optimist and loves projects, but here they are trying to find \$30 million in the budget gap. She stated that she has been on the Council since 2004, and the first time she heard about the Cricket Park was when the Mayor was over in India talking about it, so she is a little overwhelmed by it.

Councillor McHenry stated that she finds it puzzling that they are talking about creating a World Sports Park out of a current park, and yet it has never been presented before the Parks Committee, on which she also serves. She stated that she sees a lot of needs in the parks as they are that are not being addressed.

Councillor Gray stated that he also sits on the Parks Committee, and until the Mayor made the announcement in the newspaper, he had never heard anything about it. Councillor Gray asked Director Miser if she was saying that parks projects now go through DPW, instead of Parks. Director Miser stated that if they use RebuildIndy monies, they go through the Board of Public Works.

Councillor Adamson stated that he also found out about this in the newspaper. He stated that he does not know how they are supposed to explain this to their constituents when they did not even know about it. Director Miser stated that as part of a thriving community, there are a lot of things to balance, and she feels like they have to find the balance between providing amenities like this versus cutting other things.

Chair Brown stated that Parks is the most underfunded agency that the City has; its budget has been reduced every year. He stated that they are going to spend a quarter of the Parks budget on this one Cricket Park.

Councillor Hickman stated that she is livid, because she has spent more than 20 hours sitting with the various departments in this county, and not one of them are going to be able to hire the people they need. She stated that there is no depth or breadth left; that is why things are not getting done. She stated that she does not know where the priorities have gone in this administration, when they cannot put money where it will create jobs and allow citizens to live in this county.

Councillor Adamson asked how much of the park is existing (referring to the diagram, Exhibit B). Director Miser stated that the property is existing.

Councillor Oliver stated that he chairs the Parks and Recreation Committee, and this is the first that he has heard of this project, at a Public Works Committee meeting. He stated that he is personally offended that process and traditions that have been longstanding with the Council are being eroded.

Chair Brown asked if any residential input was sought when designing this park. Mr. Shirk stated that there were discussions with residents, which were led through the Parks Department, but he is not sure how it was done.

Councillor Cain thanked Director Miser for her graciousness.

Councillor Gray stated that this is just the beginning of what Senate Bill 621 is going to do, and eventually the Council will not have any power to do anything.

Chair Brown stated that is also allows them to use RebuildIndy monies for anything. In the priorities for the City, a Cricket Park was not one. Priorities should be Police and Fire Fighters working the streets and keeping neighborhoods safe and providing productive opportunities for kids in the summer.

Councillor Oliver acknowledged the death of Mr. Thomas Welch, a faithful DPW employee.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Public Works Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vernon Brown, Chair  
Public Works Committee

VA/kln